

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-13, 16, 19-25, 29-34 are presented for consideration. Claims 5, 8, 9, 14, 15, 17, 18, 26, 27, and 28 are cancelled.

It is noted with appreciation that claims 4-7, 9-12, 16-19, 21-24, 27-33 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as failing to show the limitations expressed in claim 5. As claim 5 has been cancelled, applicant respectfully requests the objection be withdrawn. Furthermore, the limitations expressed in claim 5 are also found in claims 17 and 28, which have also been cancelled. Accordingly, no correction is needed to the drawings.

Claims 1-34 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,498,859. A terminal disclaimer to obviate a double patenting rejection over the prior patent is submitted herewith. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Olson reference. Claims 1-3, 8, 13-15, 20, and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Hasenmaier reference.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 9 along with intervening claim 8. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection to claim 1 be withdrawn. Based on the above reasoning, claims 2-4, 6, 7, 10-12 which depend from claim 1 are now also believed to be in condition for allowance.

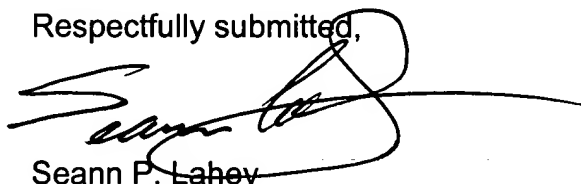
Serial No.: 09/880,454

Claim 13 has been amended to include the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 18 along with intervening claims 14 and 15. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection to claim 13 be withdrawn. Based on the above reasoning, claims 16, 19-24 which depend from claim 13 are also now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 25 has been amended to include the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 27 along with the intervening claim 26. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection to claim 25 be withdrawn. Based on the above reasoning, claims 28-34 which depend from claim 25 are now also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Favorable action on these remarks and passing of the case to issue is respectfully requested in due course of Patent Office business.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seann P. Lahey', is written over a horizontal line.

Seann P. Lahey
Registration No. 51,910
McNAIR LAW FIRM, P.A.
P.O. Box 10827
Greenville, SC 29603-0827
Telephone: (864) 232-4261
Attorney for the Applicant